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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1896.

EXPEDITION TO SERILAND.\*

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By the Spanish explorers and evangelists, most of the territory lying west of the Sierra Madre and south of Gila river, in what is now western Sonora and southwestern Arizona, was called Papagueria, or land of the Papago Indians. The eastern and northern boundaries of the area were fairly defined, but the western boundary was vague. Toward the mouth of Colorado river the Papago country was separated from the Gulf of California by an arid tract of volcanic debris known as Malpais, a tract too utterly barren for habitation, traversed by the Indians only on annual pilgrimages to the coast for salt. Toward the south, Papagueria was separated from the Gulf, midway of its length, by the land of the Seri Indians, a tract peculiarly protected from invasion by natural conditions and defended against invaders by a warlike people.

As exploration and evangelization grew into settlement, the Spaniards affiliated with the natives, and a Mexican population and culture pushed into Papagueria; and to-day most of the valleys occupied of old by the Papago Indians are given over to Mexican villages, ranches, and stock ranges, only scattered groups of the aboriginal landholders remaining in Sonora, though their tenure is better maintained in Arizona. With the conquest of Papagueria, explorers

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